



## HANDS-ON ACTIVITY: OCEAN ZONES

### OVERVIEW

We are going to learn about the different zones of the ocean by creating a container with different layers of materials representing each zone.

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- **Container:** a mason jar (can use an old spaghetti sauce or pickle jar), vase, or any large clear (glass or plastic) container
- **5 items to represent the 5 ocean layers:** 5 sand colors; 5 food items such as beans, popcorn, rice, pasta; 5 party decoration items such as tissue paper, beads, marbles, etc.; 5 of any other items that you would like to use
- **labels** (could also use tape)
- **sharpie or pen** to write on the labels or container

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute the containers and set out the 5 materials to be used as ocean zones.
2. Introduce each zone and ask students what animals do they think live in this zone?
3. Provide some examples of animals and adaptations they may have or have students do research to find out that information.
4. Begin adding to the container in this sequence:
  - a. Trench Zone (Hadalpelagic Zone)
  - b. Abyss (Abyssopelagic Zone)
  - c. Midnight Zone (Bathypelagic Zone)
  - d. Twilight Zone (Mesopelagic Zone)
  - e. Sunlight Zone (Epipelagic Zone)

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**More info on ocean layers:** [https://www.weather.gov/jetstream/layers\\_ocean](https://www.weather.gov/jetstream/layers_ocean)

**Lesson on open ocean habitats:** <https://coast.noaa.gov/data/SEAMedia/Lessons/G3U2%20Overview%20Open%20Ocean%20Habitats.pdf>

